



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Arizona Zone  
Entomology and  
Pathology

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File Code: 3400

Date: December 13, 1999

Route To: \*

Subject: Narrative for Insect and Disease Risk Map Inquiry for Coconino National Forest

To: Mark Woods

Thanks for contacting us for assistance concerning Representative Bob Stump's inquiry on the relationship between the proposed roadless areas and the National Insect and Disease Risk map. As we discussed over the phone you have received a file that depicts a portion of this map, below is a narrative that accompanies the map that you received Friday from Lowell Lewis in Fort Collins.

Concerning the National Insect and Disease Risk Map:

As requested enclosed is a copy of a portion of the national insect and disease map depicting forested lands most at risk of mortality to insects and diseases. The map displays the states of Arizona and New Mexico and indicates National Forest boundaries as well. Areas with forest cover are indicated by the intermediate gray shade. Areas most at risk are shown in black. An area is considered to be at risk of mortality if 25 percent or more tree mortality is expected over the next 15 years.

Due to the way this map was designed and created we cannot meaningfully overlay this layer with a layer showing proposed roadless areas. This map was originally designed at the 1:5,000,000 scale and thus it is only appropriate to display it at this scale or greater. In addition some of the highlighted areas on the map are a representation of risk and do not depict actual locations. In those cases broad areas of susceptibility were identified within which 25 percent tree mortality could be expected. These areas were selected based on local information and knowledge. Since 25 percent mortality was not anticipated throughout the entire region, and more spatially explicit data with which to select areas was lacking or impossible to generate, a reasonable percentage of the overall susceptible area was highlighted at random to provide a representation of expected mortality over the next 15 years. Predicting mortality due to many insects and diseases is much like predicting the weather. We know it will happen and we know certain areas are more likely to sustain more, but it is difficult to impossible to identify in advance actual locations where this mortality will occur. Similarly we know that thunderstorms are likely to occur in Arizona's high country but prior to the storms actually developing we don't know where exactly they will strike. The map provides our best professional judgement as to where mortality may occur in the next fifteen years from a National perspective.



Let me know if this meets your needs. If you need further assistance in this matter or have any questions feel free to give me a call at 556-2074.

/s/ Jill L. Wilson

JILL L. WILSON  
Entomologist

Cc  
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*E&J. Wilson:jw: 12/13/1999/520/556-2074:*  
*Concur: Rfitzgibbon: 12/13/1999*